

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Unsaturated palm oil fatty alcohols with an iodine number in the range from 65 to 85, which contain substantially unsaturated fatty alcohols and mixtures of saturated fatty alcohols of the formula (I):



in which R^1 is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched alkyl radical having 14 to 20 carbon atoms, are obtained by (a) fractionating palm oil fatty acid methyl esters into a mainly saturated C_{16} -distillate and a mainly unsaturated $C_{16/18}$ -bottom product; and (b) hydrogenating the bottom product with retention of the double bonds
10 to give the corresponding alcohols.